

Attorney Docket No. E3697-00044

No Admission. The claims presented below are labeled pursuant to the request of the Patent Office for convenience in examination. Reference to a claim as "currently amended" is not an admission that the claim was altered for any reason related to patentability.

Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-68 (Cancelled).

Claims 69-101 (Cancelled).

102. (New) A method for treating a subject for a penetrating eye trauma, comprising administering a connexin 43-downregulating amount of a connexin 43 antisense compound to the eye of said subject .

103. (New) A method of claim 102 wherein the eye trauma is chemical trauma.

104. (New) A method of claim 102 wherein the eye trauma is mechanical trauma.

105. (New) A method of claim 102 wherein the eye trauma results in corneal epithelial damage.

106. (New) A method of claim 102 wherein the connexin 43 antisense compound is administered to a subject having an amniotic membrane graft.

107. (New) A method of claim 102 wherein said antisense compound is selected from the group consisting of antisense oligonucleotides, antisense polynucleotides, deoxyribozymes, morpholino oligonucleotides, RNAi molecules, siRNA molecules, PNA molecules, DNAzymes, and 5'-end --mutated U1 small nuclear RNAs, and analogs of the preceding.

108. (New) The method of claim 107 wherein said antisense compound comprises a nucleobase sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:1-3.

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109. (New) The method of claim 107 wherein said antisense compound is targeted to at least about 8 nucleobases of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a connexin having a nucleobase sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:12.

110. (New) The method of any of claims 102-105 or 106 wherein said antisense compound is an antisense oligonucleotide between 15 and 35 nucleobases in length.

111. (New) The method of claim 110 wherein said antisense compound is an antisense oligonucleotide comprising naturally occurring nucleobases and an unmodified internucleoside linkage.

112. (New) The method of claim 110 wherein said antisense compound is antisense oligonucleotide comprising at least one modified internucleoside linkage, at least one modified sugar moiety, and/or at least one modified nucleobase.

113. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein said modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

114. (New) A method of claim 102 wherein said antisense compound is administered by topical administration.

115. (New) A method of claim 102 wherein said antisense compound is administered by local administration.

116. (New) A method of claim 102 wherein said antisense compound is administered by intraocular injection.

117. (New) A method of claim 110 wherein the antisense compound is formulated with a pluronic gel.

118. (New) A method of claim 117 wherein the pluronic gel comprises pluronic F127.

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119. (New) A method of claim 110 wherein the antisense compound is administered once.

120. (New) A method of claim 110 wherein the antisense compound is administered more than once.

121. (New) A method of claim 102 wherein the subject is a human.